

**From:** Torres, Francine  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 03, 2005 7:55 AM  
**To:** Benham, Katherine; Neal, Arthur  
**Subject:** FW: NOSB Organic System Plan Template Biodiversity Ammendment

**Attachments:** ATTACHMENT.TXT

**From:** timf@arwc.org%inter2 [mailto:timf@arwc.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 02, 2005 8:01 PM  
**To:** Torres, Francine  
**Cc:** wildfarms@earthlink.net%inter2  
**Subject:** NOSB Organic System Plan Template Biodiversity Ammendment

Jim Riddle, Chair of NOSB  
c/o Ms. Francine Torres  
USDA-AMS-TMD-NOP  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Room 4008-S, Mail Stop 0268  
Washington, DC 20250-0200

Dear Mr. Riddle

I am writing to ask that the National Organic Standards Board approve the biodiversity amendments to NOSB's model Organic System Plan (OSP) developed and recommended by the Crops Committee, the Wild Farm Allaince, and the National Center for Appropriate Technology. The requirement for biodiversity conservation is already in the National Organic Program rule, but has not been addressed.

This request does not seek to rewrite the rule or ask for clarification; rather it provides for biodiversity implementation. Approval and use of the biodiversity criteria will provide consistent guidance to farmers, inspectors, certifiers and accreditation auditors. It will establish a common expectation of what it means to conserve biodiversity and to maintain or improve the natural resources of the farm or ranch, so that each certifier and farmer will not have to figure it out on their own.

These biodiversity criteria were developed by a broad based group including organic farmers, certifiers, inspectors, conservationists, members of the NOSB, and the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). These additions to the OSP can be used in any farm size or situation. As a certified organic farmer, I feel the biodiversity additions are reasonable and realistic.

Thanks much for your consideration.

Best,  
Tim Franklin, Ranch Mgr.  
Yale Creek Ranch  
176 Yale Creek Road  
Jacknsoville, OR 97530